

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 01306 160916Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 OMB-01 IO-13 AID-05
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9351
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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN KS US
SUBJ: KOREAN MEDIA ON US-RELATED TOPICS, FEBRUARY 16

REF: SEOUL 1270 (DTG 150831Z FEB 78)

1. COVERAGE CONTINUES OF TEAM SPIRIT '78. FEBRUARY 15
EMPHASIS ON DETAILS OF EQUIPMENT, TROOPS, ETC. SHIFTS ON
FEBRUARY 16 TO COMMENTARY ON EXERCISE'S POLITICAL
SIGNIFICANCE. ALL PAPERS NOTE INTENT TO WARN N. KOREA
AND REASSURE ASIAN ALLIES OF US STEADFASTNESS; SEOUL
SINMUN BELIEVES EXERCISE MAY BE PRIMARILY AIMED AT PRC,
SOVIETS. MOST PAPERS COMMENT ON THE AMOUNT OF ADVANCE
PUBLICITY AND THE INCLUSION OF NUCLEAR-CAPABLE WEAPONS.
PREVIOUS DAY'S EBULLIENT TONE IS TEMPERED SLIGHTLY BY
SUCH OBSERVATIONS AS CHUNGANG ILBO'S: "INCREASE IN US
AIR STRENGTH, MAJOR EXERCISES LIKE TEAM SPIRIT, ETC., DO
NOT MAKE UP FOR THE TROOP WITHDRAWAL. DISCREET
FLEXIBILITY IN PLANNING FUTURE WITHDRAWALS IS
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ESSENTIAL."

2. AFTERNOON PAPERS MENTION ADM. WEISNER'S ATLANTA
SPEECH SAYING THAT SOVIETS WILL ATTAIN PACIFIC
SEA SUPREMACY IN TEN YEARS IF US CONTINUES TO SLIGHT
NAVAL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM, AND GEORGETOWN ACADEMIC
LEFEVRE'S (PHONETIC) CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT'S HUMAN

RIGHTS POLICY.

3. FONMIN PAK TONG-JIN, IN ASAHI INTERVIEW, IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE "CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE CLEAR INTENT OF THE TROOP WITHDRAWAL POLICY, WHICH EVEN IN THE US IS SPECULATIVELY REGARDED AS AN APPROACH TO CHINA" AND THAT "THE ADMINISTRATION'S PLAN MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED INTACT IN CONGRESS....THE WITHDRAWAL OF 6,000 MEN IS ALREADY DECIDED, BUT, IN CONSIDERING FURTHER WITHDRAWALS, I FEEL THAT THE US WILL BE MORE CIRCUMSPECT." ON PTS CASE: "SETTLEMENT OF THE WHOLE ISSUE IS IMMINENT: IN ANY CASE, OUR INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US REMAINS SUBSTANTIALLY UNAFFECTED BY IT."

4. TONG-A ILBO REPORTS RULING DRP'S RECENT ISSUANCE TO PARTY ACTIVISTS AND OFFICIALS OF AN INTERNAL POLICY PAMPHLET ENTITLED, "A DESIGN FOR SELF-RELIANCE AND PROSPERITY". POINTS: (1) PTS CASE IS "A MINOR CRIMINAL OFFENSE COMMITTED BY ONE INDIVIDUAL AND TRIFLING IN COMPARISON WITH OTHER NATIONS' LOBBYING ACTIVITIES"; (2) THIS APPARENT CALAMITY (THE PTS CASE) "CAN BE TURNED TO ADVANTAGE BY PROVIDING THE MOTIVE FOR A MORE SELF-RELIANT ATTITUDE FOR OUR COUNTRY", IN DEFENSE PARTICULARLY; (3) TROOP WITHDRAWAL WAS INEVITABLE REGARDLESS WHO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WON THE NOVEMBER '76 ELECTION, AND DOES NOT SIGNIFY SERIOUS POLITICAL STRAINS BETWEEN THE ROK AND THE US.
STERN

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